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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hideki TATEMATSU et al. Confirmation. No.: 5587  
Appl. No. : 10/543,190 Examiner: Huan Huu Tran  
Filed : July 22, 2005 Group Art Unit: 2861  
For : FIXING APPARATUS

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Official Action of May 2, 2007, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on August 2, 2007, with the present response being filed by the two-month due date of July 2, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the herein-contained amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected on page 2 of this Response.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.